

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-11, 14-16, and 18-28, and amend the claims as follows:

1-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method of creating annotations for a plurality of different type data objects manipulated by a ~~plurality of applications~~ user, comprising:

receiving, from the user, a selected role in which the user has chosen to act;

receiving a request from one of the applications user to create an annotation for a data object, wherein the data object is identified by a set of identifying parameters;

presenting, to the user, a plurality of annotation structures based on the selected role and the set of identifying parameters[[:]], wherein selecting an annotation structure from a set of annotation structures, each annotation structure defining defines one or more annotation fields, wherein the selection is based, at least in part, on the set of identifying parameters identifying the data object to be annotated;

receiving, from the user, a selection of one of the plurality of annotation structures;

generating a graphical user interface allowing entry of the one or more annotation fields;

creating an index based on the set of identifying parameters; and

creating an annotation record comprising the index and information entered, via the graphical user interface, for the one or more annotation fields.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising storing the annotation record in an annotation store separate from the annotated data object.

14 - 16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16 12, further comprising generating a graphical user interface for displaying the annotation information

associated with the data object, wherein the annotation information presented to the user in the graphical user interface is dependent on the selected role.

18 - 28. (Cancelled)